



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
1777 HARDEE AVENUE SW
FORT MCPHERSON GA 30330-1062

AFPE-SO

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, All FORSCOM Troop Units

SUBJECT: Columbus Day Holiday Message

1. President Franklin Roosevelt signed legislation in 1937 making Columbus Day a holiday. On 9 October 2006, the nation pauses to enjoy an autumn holiday and celebrate America's discovery. This year, Americans will once again take advantage of the long weekend for recreation, travel and relaxation. As the cooler weather invites motorists an motorcyclist to crowded roadways, the possibility for accidents rises for motorists. For motorcyclists, in particular, the risks of a fatal accident soar.
2. Each time a fatal accident report crosses my desk, I reflect on two irrefutable truths. First, a member of the FORSCOM family is no longer with us and the entire team suffers the loss. Second, nearly all these accidents are preventable when soldiers and leaders take care of each other. In reviewing FORSCOM accident reports, we see common trends as causes for motorcycle accidents: lack of rider experience, lack of training, no license, and excessive speed. Several fatal accidents this year were caused by untrained, unlicensed Soldiers taking test drives on borrowed motorcycles. I want to encourage everyone in FORSCOM to take the actions necessary to prevent future accidents.
3. With regards to motorcycle safety, there is mandatory training that will reduce the chance of accidents. Use all the equipment required by regulation and recommended by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. This includes a Department of Transportation approved helmet, eye protection, leather boots or over the ankle shoes, high visibility garments (bright colored for day and retro-reflective for night), long sleeves, long pants, and full finger gloves.
4. I hope every member of FORSCOM enjoys a well deserved break on Columbus Day. Take the necessary steps to reduce risks – preserving the force is everyone's responsibility.

Dan K. McNeill
DAN K. MCNEILL
General, USA
Commanding